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# Illinois Department of Transportation

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) submits the following comments in response to the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) notice entitled "Federal Lands Highway Program; Transportation Planning Procedures and Management Systems Pertaining to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Refuge Roads Program" published in the September 1, 1999 Federal Register.

We anticipate that Illinois will have few Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Refuge Road projects. Given the limited impact of these few additional projects on the state highway planning and programming process, we suggest that the programming process be handled in the same manner as for Public Lands Highway projects. In Illinois this is accomplished through an annual meeting between representatives of FHWA Federal Lands and IDOT (on behalf of local agencies). This meeting has only covered discussion of Forest Highway projects, but could easily include proposed FWS and Refuge Road projects.

We recommend that the scope of work and the proposed plans for FWS-proposed development should be provided to the state Department of Transportation and Department of Natural Resources for coordination with the local governments. IDOT could also coordinate with Metropolitan Planning Organizations for projects in urbanized areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Brown'.

Kirk Brown  
Secretary